

## **Agribusiness** (two year post-secondary diploma)

Please read and think about the following information below carefully to decide whether this program is a good fit for you. This information may change and is simply intended to offer you a helpful perspective on what you will experience in this program.

- Orientation:** Typically, during the last week of August (**Required** for all students).
- Program Dates:** September through April (Year 1 courses); May through August (Co-operative Education); September through April (Year 2 courses)
- Scheduled Breaks:** Last week of December and first week of January (two weeks); first week of March (one week). Check your registration for exact dates.
- Post-Graduation Work Permit length:** Up to 3 years.
- Schedule:** Monday to Friday as early as 8:00 a.m and as late as 6:00 p.m. You will receive a schedule of **required** field days, which could be different times.
- Campus Location:** 1430 Victoria Avenue East, Brandon, Manitoba. See campus information [here](#)

### **What You'll Study:**

All students will complete a "College Foundations" online course to develop the skills and attitudes of a successful Canadian student and employee.

Learn about the science and business of large-scale agriculture in the Canadian Prairies: crops, livestock, ecology, equipment, pests, customer relations, soils, math, accounting, marketing, technology, communications, management, business planning.

See course descriptions [here](#). Click on the "Courses & Costs" tab.

See PDF document on [this page](#). But use international costs from the webpage linked above.

### **How You'll "Learn By Doing"**

In the Agro-Ecology Field Laboratory and other courses, you'll be outside "in the field" for much of your learning. You'll meet agricultural producers and businesses to learn from them.

You'll apply your learning and skills in the classrooms, grow plots and agriculture labs.

Year 2 includes a major business plan project and presentations; you will "tie together" your learning.

Between Year 1 and 2 (usually), you gain practical experience by finding a summer job in the agribusiness sector (Co-operative Education). Instructors will assist you to present yourself professionally.

NOTE: It will be important to have a valid Manitoba **driver's license**. Most jobs will be outside of the city's bus system. If you do not have a driver's license in your home country, you likely cannot get a Manitoba license in time to do Co-operative Education as scheduled. See information [here](#) and [here](#).

### **What You'll Need to Do to Graduate**

**Attend all classes, activities and field trips;** arrive on time every day. Do **not** plan vacation/a trip home outside of regularly scheduled college breaks.

**Purchase all required books and supplies**, including safety clothing and equipment.

Programs at Assiniboine have certain technology requirements. Students require access to specific computer devices at home and may be required to bring these on campus when instructed. Refer to [assiniboine.net/tech](http://assiniboine.net/tech) for more detailed information about the requirements for this program.

**Computer use:** You will need to be comfortable with the Windows operating system and capable of completing assignments using word processing software. You will also learn **new** software programs and other technology. If you have doubts, try quizzes at <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/>

**Pass all courses and maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.0 minimum (C--60%).** Passing many courses with only a D (50%) can make your GPA too low to graduate. Re-testing is (usually) **not** an option. If you fail a course, it may not be available again until the following year and/or you could become a part-time student.

**English only during class.** All English skills are important, including *strong* skills in writing, reading and editing. Evaluation could include tests, assignments, research papers, group projects, and presentations in English.

**No personal cell phone use during class.**

**Do your own work.** Cheating, not referencing sources of your ideas, or using other people's work (current or previous) will result in failing grades, probation or suspension.

**Share work** of maintaining labs, including cleaning.

**Manage physical demands** like walking a long distance, often on rough/uneven land, or lifting equipment into a vehicle.

**Be respectful** of all students and staff and work co-operatively in teams.

**Ask for help** when you need it!

### **How Assiniboine College Can Help You**

Trained instructors will share their knowledge and experience from the industry, and will give you frequent and specific feedback on your progress.

Learning Commons staff can assist with study and test taking skills, mathematics, writing reports or term papers, and some tutorial support.

Student advising staff offer support for academic planning and can refer you to resources outside the college such as counselling, housing, and other supports.

A Regulated International Student Immigration Advisor can answer questions related to permits.

### **Job Options for Graduates**

Graduates are employed with grain companies, seed and crop input suppliers, banks and credit unions, livestock supply outlets, agricultural equipment dealers, government agencies, agronomists/consultants, and co-operatives.

Types of jobs include agriculture, agronomy, sales and service, finance, livestock, marketing, management, research, administration and precision agriculture.

Most jobs will require working outside, sometimes in unpleasant weather.

Some jobs will require evening and weekend work and/or long hours of work, especially in the spring/summer/fall months.

Almost all jobs will require a **valid Manitoba driver's license**; many will require you to drive daily outside of the city's bus system. See information [here](#) and [here](#).

Most job opportunities will be outside of a city, in a smaller town or rural area.

**Possible** jobs on Manitoba In-Demand Occupations list: [2123 Agricultural Representatives, Consultants or Specialists](#).

**Other Important Information**

**Field trips** will generally be outside; the weather could be cool or windy or rainy. You could be walking a long distance on uneven ground and in fields of dirt or crops. There could be insects. You will need comfortable and warm shoes/boots and clothing.

**Location of most jobs** will be outside of a city, so you will have the best opportunities if you will live and work in a small rural community.

**“Co-op work permit”** will be required by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada before you start the practicum placement. Your letter of acceptance will allow you to apply. Apply for this **early**, as processing time is very long! See IRCC website [here](#).